

NEWS RELEASE



USDA Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region

Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands

Forest Supervisors Office

2840 Kachina Dr.

Pueblo, CO 81008

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIKE NATIONAL FOREST TO HOST INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR THE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN DOUGLAS-FIR TUSOCK MOTH CONTROL PROJECT

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., March 31, 2016 – Public input and collaboration is being sought regarding the proposed control of Douglas-fir Tussock Moth on National Forest System lands in El Paso County near Cheyenne Mountain. The U.S. Forest Service is considering aerial application of a biological control within an approximately 415 acre analysis area. The project is intended to assist local government and landowner efforts to control the Tussock Moth and address impacts to aesthetic values, visitor experience, and forest health. The treatment is intended to reduce or eliminate the current Tussock Moth infestation.

The Forest Service is conducting a collaborative process to refine its proposed action based on public and stakeholder concerns. Opportunities to provide feedback on the project will include an open house meeting on April 20, 2016 in the commons area of Cheyenne Mountain Junior High from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, a follow-up webinar presentation in mid-May 2016 to be announced, online at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=49032>, or by emailing tussockmoth@fs.fed.us. Partners, interested entities, and the public are encouraged to provide feedback before the comment period ends on April 29, 2016.

The Tussock Moth is a native defoliator with well documented outbreaks occurring in Colorado since the late 1930s. The current outbreak was first noticed in 2014 and these outbreaks typically last up to four years. On the Pike National Forest, a past outbreak (1993-1996) resulted in 30-40% Douglas-fir mortality and affected 18,000 acres; however, more recent outbreaks (2000-2004) were smaller in scale and relatively isolated.

The Pike National Forest is committed to continued collaboration with our partners on the

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response to the Tussock Moth outbreak in the Cheyenne Mountain area. We welcome additional partners representing all points of view in this collaborative effort. For more information, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/psicc and follow the quick link to the Tussock Moth Management and Control project site.

Public Involvement & Collaboration Opportunities

April 20, 2016 – Open House at Cheyenne Mtn. Jr. High – 1200 W Cheyenne Rd, Colo. Springs

April 29, 2016 – All official comments must be received

May 2016, TBA – Virtual webinar to show how comments modified the final proposed action

To comment, email tussockmoth@fs.fed.us, online at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=49032>, OR mail to U.S. Forest Service, Attn: Tussock Moth, 2840 Kachina Drive, Pueblo, Colorado 81008

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